

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 remain pending in this application, with Claims 1 and 9 being independent. Claims 1-7, 9 and 10 have been amended herein merely to improve their form. The changes have not been made for any reasons related to patentability.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0109322 (Nakazawa et al.). It should be noted that the filing date of Nakazawa et al. (November 18, 2005) is the same as the international filing date of the PCT Application (JP 2005/021634) of which this application is a national stage. That is, Nakazawa et al. was not filed in the United States before the invention by Applicants. Accordingly, Nakazawa et al. does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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